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United Nations

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives

Report on the first session (17–29 May and 15 July 1999)

General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-fourth Session
Supplement No. 45 (A/54/45)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 29 May and on 15 July 1999. The Preparatory Committee held 13 meetings (1st to 13th) and a number of informal meetings. Also, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/28 of 19 November 1998, the Preparatory Committee established an in-session open-ended working group, which met from 24 to 28 May 1999.

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Cristian Maquieira (Chile), who also made a statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 17 May, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations made an introductory statement.

4. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Director-General of the International Labour Organization and the Vice-President and Head of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank.

Also at the 1st meeting, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme addressed the Preparatory Committee.

At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Commission for Social Development made a statement.

B. Attendance

5. The following States were represented: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6. The following units and programmes of the United Nations were represented: Economic Commission for Africa, Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, United Nations Volunteers Programme.

7. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Council of Europe, European Community, International Committee of the Red Cross, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of African Unity, Organization of the Islamic Conference.

9. In accordance with decision 7 of the Preparatory Committee, adopted at its organizational session held in May 1998,[1] a number of non-governmental organizations also attended the session.

C. Officers

10. The officers of the Preparatory Committee, who were elected at its organizational session in 1998, remained:

Chairman
Cristian Maquieira (Chile)

Vice-Chairman with rapporteurial responsibilities
Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairmen
Abdallah Baali (Algeria)
Ion Gorita (Romania)
Koos Richelle (Netherlands)

Ex officio
Aurelio Fernandez (Spain)

D. Agenda

11. At its 1st meeting, on 17 May, the Preparatory Committee adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document A/AC.253/5. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Status of preparations for the special session.
3. Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.
4. Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit.
5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.
6. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session.

E. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

12. At its 1st and 10th meetings, on 17 and 21 May, pursuant to its decision 7 adopted at its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee accredited the non-governmental organizations listed in the annex to documents A/AC.253/10 and Add.1 for participation in the preparatory process, with the exception of the following two organizations: Foundation for Research on International Environment Development and Security (Friends); and Kazem Rajavi International Association for the Defence of Human Rights.

F. Documentation

13. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.253/5);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the status of preparations for the special session (A/AC.253/6);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/7);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on further initiatives for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/8);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on contributions from relevant organs, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system (A/AC.253/9 and Add.1-10);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on the participation of non-governmental organizations (A/AC.253/10 and Add.1);

(g) Note verbale dated 20 May 1999 from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/AC.253/11);

(h) Proposed organization of work of the session (A/AC.253/L.4);

(i) Text submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, entitled "Proposed outcome of the first substantive session" (A/AC.253/L.5);

(j) Draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session (A/AC.253/L.6);

(k) Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Koos Richelle (Netherlands) on the basis of informal consultations, entitled "Role of the United Nations system" (A/AC.253/L.7);

(l) Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Further preparations for the special session" (A/AC.253/L.8);

(m) Draft decision submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, entitled "Further preparations for the special session" (A/AC.253/L.9);

(n) Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.253/L.10);

(o) Draft decisions submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Ion Gorita (Romania), as chair of the open-ended working group (A/AC.253/L.11);

(p) Note by the Secretariat on the participation of non-governmental organizations (A/AC.253/CRP.1).

Chapter II
Status of preparations for the special session

14. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 at its 1st meeting, on 17 May 1999. It heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

Chapter III
Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, and consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

15. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda items 3 and 4 at its 2nd to 13th meetings, from 17 to 21 and on 25, 28 and 29 May and 15 July 1999.

16. At its 2nd meeting, on 17 May, the Preparatory Committee held a panel discussion and dialogue on global review and initiatives. It heard presentations by the following panellists: Erich Stather, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany; Josefina Bilbao, Minister for Women's Affairs, Chile; Manhoar Ramsaran, Minister of Social and Community Development, Trinidad and Tobago; Irena Boruta, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Poland; Majozi V. Sithole, Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Swaziland; Edgardo Mosqueira, Minister of the Presidency, Peru; Hamilton Lashley, Minister of Social Transformation, Barbados; Vilmar Faria, Special Adviser to the Presidency of the Republic, Brazil; Rosangela Adum Jaramillo, Minister of Education and Culture, Ecuador; Portia Simpson-Miller, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sport, Jamaica; Ved Prakash Bundhun, Minister of Social Security and National Solidarity, Mauritius; Dawson Lupunga, Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Zambia.

17. Also at the 2nd meeting, the observer for the International Council on Social Welfare, a non-governmental organization, made a statement.

18. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement.

19. The Preparatory Committee held a general discussion on agenda item 3 at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 18 May.

20. At the 3rd meeting, on 18 May, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement.

21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Ecuador, the United States of America, Bangladesh, Algeria, Switzerland, Chile, Germany (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries as well as Cyprus and Iceland) the Netherlands, Canada, Tunisia, Egypt, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Peru, Mauritius, Japan, Kazakhstan and the Holy See.

22. At the 4th meeting, on 18 May, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Ukraine, Croatia, Turkey, the Philippines, the Marshall Islands, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Belarus, Armenia, Indonesia, Mongolia, the United Republic of Tanzania, China, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Viet Nam, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Norway, Senegal, Benin, Morocco, Malaysia, Cuba, Niger, Thailand, India, Argentina, the Sudan, Colombia and Jamaica.

23. At the same meeting, the representative of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS made a statement.

24. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization.

25. In accordance with its organization of work, the Preparatory Committee held a general discussion on the 10 commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development at its 5th to 10th meetings, from 19 to 21 May.

26. At the 5th meeting, on 19 May, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made on commitment 2 (Poverty eradication) by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union and the

associated countries as well as Cyprus and Iceland), Egypt, Bangladesh, the Holy See, Indonesia, South Africa, Jamaica, Zambia, Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Norway, the United States of America, Peru, Cuba, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Switzerland, India, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, Croatia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Tunisia and the Bahamas.

28. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Development Programme also made a statement.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: DECA Equipo Pueblo, United Kingdom Coalition against Poverty, International Council on Social Welfare.

30. At the 6th meeting, on 19 May, statements were made on commitment 3 (Full employment) by the representatives of the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries as well as Cyprus and Iceland), Zambia, Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Morocco, Switzerland, Canada, Mauritius, Benin, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan, Croatia, Barbados, the United States of America, Malaysia, Norway, Mexico, Chile, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Peru, Jamaica, the Holy See and the Philippines.

31. At the same meeting, the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa also made a statement.

32. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organization made a statement.

33. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Social Watch, International Chamber of Commerce.

34. At the 7th meeting, on 20 May, statements were made on commitments 4 (Promoting social integration), 5 (Equality and equity between women and men) and 6 (Universal and equitable access to quality education and health services) by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries as well as Cyprus and Iceland), Japan, Bangladesh, Swaziland, Poland, Indonesia, South Africa, Cuba, Morocco, Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic, Norway, the United States of America, Mauritius, Chile, Algeria, Jamaica, Iraq, Turkey, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sudan, Ghana, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Holy See, Barbados and Zambia.

35. At the 8th meeting, on 20 May, statements were made on commitments 4, 5 and 6 by the representatives of Tunisia, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Malaysia, Lesotho, China and Canada.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Volunteers, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme.

37. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: OXFAM (United Kingdom and Ireland); Pax Christi, International Catholic Peace Movement; International Council on Social Welfare; International Resource Foundation for Development.

39. At the same meeting, statements were made on commitments 7 (Acceleration of development in Africa and the least developed countries) and 8 (Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes) by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries as well as Cyprus and Iceland), Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Japan, Bangladesh, Senegal, France, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Botswana, Switzerland and the Holy See.

40. At the 9th meeting, on 21 May, statements were made on commitments 7 and 8 by the representatives of Norway, Benin, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Côte d'Ivoire, Canada, Colombia, the Republic of Korea, India, Tunisia, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Zambia.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Bank.

42. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by observers for the following non-governmental organizations: European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People-EUROSTEP; International Council on Social Welfare; International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres.

43. At the same meeting, statements were made on commitments 1 (An enabling environment for social development), 9 (Resources for social development) and 10 (International cooperation for social development) by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries as well as Cyprus and Iceland), Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Bangladesh, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Morocco, Norway and Australia.

44. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund made a presentation.

45. At the 10th meeting, on 21 May, statements were made on commitments 1, 9 and 10 by the representatives of China, the Holy See, the United States of America, Benin, Zambia, Mexico, India, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Canada, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea, Jamaica, Senegal, Thailand and Switzerland.

46. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development made a statement.

47. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Council of Europe.

48. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Internet; a women's caucus; Christian Aid; International Council on Social Welfare; International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis and Franciscans International); Consumers International; International Economic Order, The Center of Concern; and Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches.

Chairman's summary of the high-level dialogue on global review and initiatives

49. The following were the main issues that emerged during the discussions:

Constraints to development

1. While many developing countries are firmly committed to poverty eradication, full employment and social integration, several constraints have limited their efforts to achieve the goals and commitments of the World Summit for Social Development. These include, at the national level, wars, civil strife and natural disasters, the conflict existing between the imperative of fiscal austerity to control the public deficit and finding the necessary fiscal resources needed to finance social policies.

2. External constraints include the negative effects of globalization; the burden of debt; the impact of international financial instability characterized by such events as the Asian financial crisis; lack of access to international markets; falling commodity prices; and the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

National initiatives in response to the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development

3. Many developing countries have undertaken poverty reduction programmes, in many cases with the support of United Nations agencies, the World Bank and other international donors. These efforts aim primarily at the creation of the necessary conditions to enhance:

(a) Political stability and the promotion of human rights;

(b) Macroeconomic stability, especially regarding inflation control and fiscal discipline;

(c) Sound administrative and legal systems;

(d) The creation of specific ministries and bodies to ensure that all stakeholders, including poor communities, fully participate in collaborative planning in the fight against poverty. Mechanisms have also been put in place to facilitate the implementation of social policies. In some countries, such a strategy includes the establishment of poverty alleviation funds, urban and rural development commissions, programmes of income transfer to segments of the poorest population, and national economic and social development plans;

(e) The creation of better conditions of access to land, microcredit, and technical assistance to farmers in rural areas;

(f) The promotion of partnerships and dialogue between government, workers, private enterprise and civil society to ensure that available expertise and resources are channelled directly to communities through education and training, apprenticeships and infrastructural development.

4. New policies and programmes have been undertaken in many countries for more and better

employment and income-generating opportunities. These include both specific institutional reforms and new measures to assist those pushed back into unemployment as a result of recent financial crises. Among such measures are labour market information systems, labour-intensive infrastructure programmes, credit and training for self-employment, small and micro enterprise development and promotion of youth entrepreneurship. Furthermore, tripartite bodies have been set up to improve consultations between employers and workers in the face of recent financial crises, particularly regarding such issues as work sharing, severance payments and social security.

5. Specific gender-oriented policies and programmes have ensured greater participation of women in labour markets and in public life and heightened awareness of women's rights. Other programmes have targeted specific vulnerable groups such as poor rural women and temporary agricultural labourers. Women's participation is seen as instrumental to the achievement of the goals of poverty alleviation and social integration. Greater efforts have likewise been made to ensure participation and respect of human rights for all sectors of society, including vulnerable groups, and to preserve cultural, ethnic and historical identities. The three guiding principles of culture, equity and participation are considered to be central to achieving social integration.

6. Political will, combined with additional resources, are required to consolidate democratic institutions necessary for stopping war, reducing poverty and empowering people.

7. The Preparatory Committee has also been called on to address the problem of inequalities in access to and quality of education.

Proposed initiatives at the international level

8. In view of the growing uncertainties caused by the unstable international financial system, there is a need to redesign the international financial architecture in ways which take into account social development issues.

9. There is also a need to review the practices of international trade with a view to eliminating existing protectionist practices which are detrimental to developing countries' agricultural exports.

10. There is a need for further debt initiatives to reduce the debt burden, which continues to be a major constraint to many developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries. Debt initiatives should focus not just on debt reduction but on the circumstances under which countries become indebted in the first place. Equally important is the need to arrest and reverse the declining trend of official development assistance (ODA), as well as to implement the 20/20 initiative.

11. Renewed partnership at the regional and international level is needed to promote social progress and justice.

12. Continued need for closer cooperation between United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods Institutions is needed in promoting social development issues.

Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

Document A/AC.253/L.5

50. At its 11th meeting, on 25 May, the Preparatory Committee had before it a working draft, submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Proposed outcome of the first substantive session" (A/AC.253/L.5) (for the text, see annex).

51. No action was taken on the working draft.

Draft decisions A/AC.253/L.7 and Rev.1

52. At its 12th meeting, on 28 May, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Role of the United Nations system", which had been submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Koos Richelle (Netherlands), on the basis of informal consultations (A/AC.253/L.7). The draft decision read as follows:

"*The Preparatory Committee*,

"*Recalling* its decision 4, on the role of the United Nations system, taken at its organizational session in May 1998,

"1. *Invites* all relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations to elaborate and submit proposals for further action and initiatives, as set out below;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as part of his overall preparations for the special session, to make available those proposals to the Preparatory

Committee at its second substantive session in April 2000;

"Commitment 1
"An enabling environment for social development

"1. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the International Labour Organization [and the Bretton Woods institutions-European Union (EU)] to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the conclusions of current research to assess the impact of globalization on social [policy/development-Canada] and to make recommendations for further action;

"2. *Also requests* the Secretary General, in conjunction with the funds and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare proposals [in consultation with national Governments-Sudan] on sound principles and good practices for social policy for the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

"Note: EU would replace the entire paragraph with following: Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations, to prepare proposals on sound principles for social policy for the Preparatory Committee at its second session, and to keep the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee informed about progress thereon.

"3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the development of [guidelines/principles-European Union] on the social responsibilities [of the private sector-United States of America to delete]; the International Labour Organization, [as well as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-European Union] in consultation with its tripartite constituents, is invited to contribute to the preparation of that report;

"*Note:* The Group of 77 suggests combining paragraphs 1 to 3 under one chapeau, as follows, and adding a new subparagraph:

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in conjunction with relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, taking into account the reports of national Governments, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session on the following:

"(a) Assessment of the impact of globalization on the social policy of developing countries, based on conclusions of current research, and recommendations for further action;

"[(b) Preparation of proposals on sound principles and good practices for social policy;]

"*Note:* the Group of 77 requests that this text be kept in brackets pending further consideration.

"(c) Development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector;

"(d) Undertaking of social impact assessments of economic measures implemented by developing countries in the aftermath of financial crises, utilizing as a reference point comparisons between the financial crisis in Asia and similar crises that have been experienced previously or subsequently by some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; these studies should take into account previous work that has been done in this area and would make greater use of comparative country studies, both inter- and intraregional.

"4. *Invites* the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to carry out a joint assessment of the sectors and products where action could be taken [by developed countries-United States to delete] to further open [their-United States to delete] markets to the exports of developing countries [and countries with economies in transition-Russian Federation et al.];

"Note: EU and Japan expressed reservations on this subparagraph; the Group of 77 said it would propose new language.

"5. *Invites* the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development and the World Bank to [jointly-Group of 77 to delete] study the feasibility of establishing an infrastructure fund to assist with the development of infrastructure for social development in developing countries [and countries with economies in transition-Russian Federation et al.];

"Note: Japan expressed a reservation on this subparagraph; EU would delete it.

"EU proposed a new paragraph:

"6. *Invites* the Economic Commission for Europe to elaborate measures to support the transition toward a market economy and pluralist democracy in countries with economies in transition;

"7. [*Invites* the International Law Commission to consider the development of/*Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give priority consideration to the possibility of developing-Canada] an international legal instrument for combating corruption, and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this proposal;

"*Note:* EU would replace the entire paragraph with the following text: *Encourages* the ongoing work on a draft convention against transnational organized crime and the additional protocols thereto, with a view to the speedy finalization of that work.

"8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to review [obstacles and-EU] progress achieved since the Summit in the ratification and implementation of existing international conventions and covenants to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms [and to propose further steps for action-EU] [and to urge States that have not yet done so, to do so-Sudan];

"*Note:* EU suggests that the report should also be submitted to the Commission for Social Development.

"Commitment 2
"Poverty eradication

"9. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its special session adopt a global poverty reduction target to reduce by one half the number of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015; and invites the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, when preparing their upcoming major reports on poverty reduction (the World Development Report 2000 and the second report on overcoming human poverty, respectively), to recommend additional strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to evaluate the achievement of international targets aiming to meet the basic human needs of all and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

"11. *Invites* the International Labour Office, in cooperation with the relevant offices of the United Nations system and the International Social Security Association, to prepare a report for the second session of the Preparatory Committee containing recommendations for further action in the field of social protection to be taken at the special session; interested Governments are invited to provide support;

"Commitment 3
"Full employment

"12. *Invites* the International Labour Office to prepare a programme of national and regional action plans for achieving full employment in an integrating world economy and to submit it to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; the report could propose a strategy and plan of implementation which could include analytical and research components, policy implications and recommendations for action, and country-level operational activities;

"13. *Invites* the United Nations in cooperation with the International Labour Office to prepare proposals to strengthen procedures and institutions for social dialogue; this should include specific proposals for strengthening representative employer and worker organizations;

"14. *Invites* the World Bank and the International Labour Office to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second session a brief report indicating the scope for increasing the employment potential of infrastructure development and the employment impact of World Bank infrastructure loans, as well as a strategy for expanding international cooperation in that field;

"Commitment 4
"Promoting social integration

"15. *Requests* Governments to strengthen mechanisms for participation, cooperation and dialogue among all levels of government and other social actors as a contribution to integration, and invites the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to undertake a review of existing national institutional arrangements for social integration and report on the lessons learned to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; interested Governments are urged to support this project;

"16. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the development of an international legal instrument for the protection of the family;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on suggested means to strengthen the capacity of organizations working for conflict resolution and conflict prevention;

"Commitment 6
"Universal and equitable access to high-quality education and health services

"18. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank to formulate a global action plan for education for all by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

"19. *Invites* the World Health Organization, in consultation with the World Bank and other interested organizations of the United Nations system, to elaborate a Global action plan for basic health services by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

"Commitment 7
"Acceleration of development in Africa and in the least developed countries

"20. *Invites* the United Nations Secretariat, in conjunction with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, to review again the proposal to establish a commodities diversification facility and to make a recommendation to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, in view of the importance of reducing dependence on one or a few commodities;

"21. *Encourages* the twenty-five African countries most affected by the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome to adopt a target of reducing infection levels in young people by 25 per cent by 2005, and invites the World Health Organization, in conjunction with the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome to prepare and propose means for implementing a strategy for achieving that target;

"Commitment 8
"Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

"22. Affirming that national Governments must control the setting of policy directions and priorities of anti-crisis policy measures and programmes, with the participation of representatives from the civil society, the local business community and other national stakeholders, and that programmes should not be adopted without social impact assessment, to ensure provision of adequate social protection for the poor and vulnerable groups and to mitigate any potential adverse effects of its implementation, *requests* the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this matter;

"Commitment 9
"Resources for social development

"23. *Requests* the United Nations Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to undertake further study and to report to the Economic and Social Council on ways and means to address the issues relating to the international dimensions of national tax policy and international tax competition;

"Commitment 10
"International cooperation for social development

"24. *Supports* the efforts of the United Nations to develop a coherent set of basic social development indicators by the time of the second session of the Preparatory Committee and for the further development of methodologies for social impact assessments, and encourages the establishment or strengthening of national monitoring and evaluation units;

"25. *Invites* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session containing operational proposals on enhancing social development for all through the provision of global public goods;

"26. *Urges* all concerned to promote South-South cooperation, particularly in terms of economic and technical cooperation, support a triangular mechanism whereby donor countries would provide

financial support for South-South cooperation and consider the establishment of a generalized trust fund for triangular economic technical cooperation among developing countries."

53. At its 13th meeting, on 15 July, the Preparatory Committee had before it a revised text of the draft decision (A/AC.253/L.7/Rev.1).

54. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the revised draft decision (see chap. VI, sect. B, decision 1).

Draft decision A/AC.253/L.8

55. At its 12th meeting, on 28 May, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision, entitled "Further preparations for the special session", which had been submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.253/L.8).

56. At its 12th meeting, on 29 May, the Chairman orally revised the draft decision as a result of informal consultations.

57. At the same meeting, the representative of Germany made a statement on behalf of the European Union.

58. Following a suspension of the meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. VI, sect. B, decision 2).

Draft decision A/AC.253/L.9

59. At its 12th meeting, on 28 May, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Special preparations for the special session", which had been submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations (A/AC.253/L.9). The draft decision read as follows:

"The General Assembly decides:

"(a) That the Preparatory Committee shall hold inter-sessional open-ended consultations from 30 August to 3 September 1999 in order to consider further the Chairman's working draft (A/AC.253/L.5) and the additional proposals made thereto, as contained in the annex to the report of the Preparatory Committee, with a view to preparing a new, integrated Chairman's working draft by January 2000;

"(b) That the Preparatory Committee shall hold additional inter-sessional open-ended consultations from 22 to 25 February 2000 in order to consider the new, integrated Chairman's working draft, together with a compilation of summaries and proposals provided by the United Nations system, with a view to the preparation of a revised Chairman's working draft for submission to the Preparatory Committee at its second session."

60. No action was taken on draft decision A/AC.253/L.9.

Draft decisions contained in document A/AC.253/L.11

61. At its 12th meeting, on 28 May, the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Ion Gorita (Romania), reported on the outcome of consultations held in the open-ended working group under his Chairmanship, and drew the attention of the Preparatory Committee to an informal paper containing three draft decisions which he had submitted as a result of those consultations (subsequently issued as document A/AC.253/L.11).

62. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee took the following action with respect to the draft decisions:

63. Draft decision I, entitled "Arrangements for the special session", was recommended for adoption by the General Assembly (see chap. VI, sect. A, draft decision I);

64. Draft decision II, entitled "Title of the special session", was recommended for adoption by the General Assembly (see chap. VI, sect. A, draft decision II);

65. Draft decision III, entitled "Accreditation and modalities for participation of non-governmental organizations at the special session", was adopted by the Preparatory Committee (see chap.VI, sect. B, decision 3).

66. After the adoption of draft decision I, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement.

Reports of the Secretary-General under agenda items 3 and 4

67. At its 13th meeting, on 15 July, the Preparatory Committee took note of the reports of the Secretary-General on a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/7) and on further initiatives for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (A/AC.253/8). (see chap. VI, sect. B, decision 4).

Chapter IV
Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee

68. At its 12th meeting, on 29 May 1999, the Preparatory Committee approved the provisional agenda for its second session, as contained in document A/AC.253/L.10, and recommended it to the General Assembly for adoption (see chap. VI, sect. A, draft decision III).

Chapter V
Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session

69. At its 12th meeting, on 29 May 1999, Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran), as Vice-Chairperson with rapporteurial responsibilities, introduced the draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session (A/AC.253/L.6).

70. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chairman with its completion.

Chapter VI
Matters calling for action by the General Assembly or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the General Assembly

71. The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Arrangements for the special session

The General Assembly:

(a) Invites Member States to participate in its special session on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development at the highest political level possible;

(b) Decides that the special session shall have a plenary and an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole;

(c) Further decides:

(i) That observers may make statements in the debate in plenary;

(ii) To invite States members of the specialized agencies of the United Nations that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

(iii) To call for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions of the United Nations in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity of observer that held for their participation in the World Summit for Social Development;

(iv) That representatives of United Nations programmes and other entities in the United Nations system may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

Draft decision II
Title of the special session

The General Assembly decides that the special session will be entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world".

Draft decision III
Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives (3–14 April 2000)

The General Assembly approves the provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives set out below.

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organizational matters.
2. Preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives:
   (a) Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of the special session of the General Assembly;
   (b) Consideration of the draft final document of the special session;*
   (c) Consideration of any other proposals to be submitted to the special session;
   (d) Other matters.
3. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session.

B. Decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee

72. The following decisions, adopted by the Preparatory Committee, are brought to the attention of the General Assembly:

Decision 1
Role of the United Nations system

The Preparatory Committee, recalling its decision 4, on the role of the United Nations system, taken at its organizational session in May 1998:

(a) Invites all relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations, within their mandates, to elaborate and submit, as set out in the annex below, review reports and proposals, which fully integrate a gender perspective, for further action and initiatives, taking into account national reports submitted by Governments;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General, as part of his overall preparations for the special session, to make available those review reports and proposals to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session, in April 2000, and, where appropriate, to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session, in February 2000.

Annex

Commitment 1
An enabling environment for social development

1. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General, in conjunction with relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, taking into account the reports of national Governments, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session on the following:

(a) The impact of globalization on social development;

(b) The development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector;

(c) The undertaking of social impact assessments utilizing comparative methodology of economic measures implemented by developing countries in the aftermath of financial crises, taking into account experiences gained from past crises in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. The Preparatory Committee invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant organizations and in the context of its ongoing work relating to the formulation of a positive agenda for trade for developing countries, to carry out an assessment of the sectors and products where action could be taken to further liberalize markets with a view to increasing market access for the exports of developing countries.

3. The Preparatory Committee invites the World Bank to study the feasibility of increasing funding for projects for the development of infrastructure for social development in developing countries.

4. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to prepare a report on additional measures to support the efforts of the countries with economies in transition directed towards reducing the social costs of the transition process and achieving sustained economic growth, including the formulation by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of a positive agenda for trade for those countries, with a view to liberalizing markets and increasing access for the exports of the countries with economies in transition.

* Incorporating the results of the thirty-eighth regular session of the Commission for Social Development on the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, as well as the results of the informal inter-sessional open-ended consultations of the Preparatory Committee.

5. The Preparatory Committee requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report, based on existing reports, on progress achieved and obstacles encountered since the World Summit for Social Development in the ratification and implementation of existing international conventions and covenants and in the implementation of other relevant human rights instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development.

6. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General to present to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session an update on the report to be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, as requested in paragraph 20 of Assembly resolution 53/172 of 15 December 1998, with particular focus on social development and suggesting specific measures for responding to the social consequences of the recent financial crises.

7. The Preparatory Committee also requests the Secretary-General to review and submit to it his reports on progress achieved in the implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the right of self-determination, in particular for people living under colonial and foreign occupation, with a view to enabling them to participate freely in social and economic development.

Commitment 2
Poverty eradication

8. The Preparatory Committee invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the President of the World Bank, when preparing their upcoming major reports on poverty reduction, to recommend additional strategies, at the national and international levels, as well as policies and programmes for poverty eradication, taking into account the feminization of poverty.

9. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to evaluate the progress towards the achievement of international targets agreed on in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[2] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[3] aimed at meeting the basic human needs of all, and to report thereon to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session and to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session.

10. The Preparatory Committee invites the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant organizations, in particular the International Labour Organization and the International Social Security Association, to prepare a report for the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session containing recommendations for further action in the field of social protection, taking into consideration the particularities of regions and countries, their level of development and the need for international cooperation to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard within the overall goal of the eradication of poverty.

Commitment 3
Full employment

11. The Preparatory Committee invites the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, such as the World Bank:

(a) To present analyses on the following issues:

(i) The scope for and obstacles to increasing the employment potential of infrastructure development in developing countries, in particular in rural areas;

(ii) Stimulation of employment in the social sector through private investment;

(iii) Special employment issues faced by particular groups, including youth, older persons, migrants, persons with disabilities and indigenous people;

(iv) The contribution of the informal sector and small enterprises in generating potential for self-employment and sustainable livelihoods and in contributing to social integration, in particular for vulnerable groups;

(v) Policy measures at the regional and international levels to stimulate employment;

(vi) Successful national and regional initiatives and experience in the creation of employment and their applicability elsewhere;

(vii) The role of vocational education, training and retraining, in particular in skills increasingly demanded in the changing technical and economic environment;

(viii) The potential role of social dialogue in increasing employment;

(ix) Reconciliation of work and family life;

(b) To propose, on the basis of the analyses, concrete suggestions for employment generation, taking into account gender-specific obstacles to employment, as well as the goal of equal employment opportunities.

12. The Preparatory Committee invites the United Nations Development Programme to report on creating and improving sustainable livelihoods for those living in poverty, paying special attention to the links between employment/jobs, resources and the environment.

Commitment 4
Promoting social integration

13. The Preparatory Committee invites the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to report on its findings on institutional arrangements for social integration, as well as the role of civil society in the planning and provision of social services. The report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session.

14. The Preparatory Committee invites the United Nations Volunteers Programme, the focal point for the International Year of Volunteers, to report on the role of volunteering in the promotion of social development and to make proposals thereon.

15. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session on suggested means to promote social integration in the context of post-conflict situations.

Commitment 5
Equality and equity between women and men

16. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session, for information, the outcome of the third session, in March 2000, of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which will be before the Commission on the Status of Women.

Commitment 6
Universal and equitable access to high-quality education and health services

17. The Preparatory Committee invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, building on progress made since the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March 1990, to submit a report on progress made towards achieving the goals of education for all as agreed in the Copenhagen Programme of Action, including the goal of closing the gender gap in education, through existing initiatives, and to make recommendations on further action; the report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session.

18. The Preparatory Committee invites the World Health Organization, in consultation with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome and other interested organizations of the United Nations system to submit a report on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving the goal of universal access to primary health services, such as clean water, safe sanitation, nutrition programmes, malaria and disease prevention, and reproductive health care, including for women and girls, through existing initiatives, and to make recommendations on further action. The report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session.

19. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee and other relevant organizations to report and make proposals on the various dimensions of the implementation of the 20/20 initiative in the light of declining official development assistance, in line with the Oslo and Hanoi consensus, for consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session. The report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session.

Commitment 7
Acceleration of development in Africa and in the least developed countries

20. The Preparatory Committee invites the Secretary-General to present an updated report on obstacles facing development in Africa and the least developed countries, and to pay special attention in that report to the following:

(a) Measures to eliminate those obstacles;

(b) Evaluation of the degree of marginalization of these countries in terms of the integration of their economies in the global market;

(c) Means to strengthen the measures and mechanisms for commodity diversification in the framework of the industrialization process.

21. The Preparatory Committee invites the United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, in conjunction with its seven sponsors, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank, to prepare and propose

means for implementing a strategy for reducing the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome infection rate in young people between the ages of 15 and 24, with the goal of ensuring that by 2010 prevalence in this age group is reduced globally by 25 per cent and in the 25 African countries most affected by the pandemic by 25 per cent by 2005.

Commitment 8
Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

22. The Preparatory Committee invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to report on progress made and obstacles encountered in the integration of social development goals into structural adjustment programmes, with a view to presenting strategies to mitigate the negative effects of those programmes on social programmes and strengthening their social dimension, as well as to improving their positive impact, taking into account the need to enhance coordination with other United Nations organizations in this regard. The report should be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session.

Commitment 9
Resources for social development

23. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to present a report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session with proposals for additional and innovative sources to obtain resources for social development.

Commitment 10
International cooperation for social development

24. The Preparatory Committee requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to provide written information on how coordination efforts in the field of development cooperation can be more effectively utilized in implementing the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development, and present it to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session.

Decision 2
Further preparations for the special session

The Preparatory Committee:

(a) Recalls its decision 2 on issues to be addressed, taken at its organizational session in May 1998, in which, *inter alia*, it decided that the task of the Preparatory Committee is to review and appraise the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, on the basis of input provided by the Commission for Social Development, and to propose concrete actions and initiatives for further implementation of the Copenhagen commitments;

(b) Also recalls its decision 3 on coordination with the Commission for Social Development, taken at its organizational session, in which, *inter alia*, it recommended that the Commission be entrusted with the responsibility of acting as the forum for national reporting, benefiting from a sharing of experiences gained and thus in 1999 and 2000 identifying areas where further initiatives are needed for consideration by the Preparatory Committee;

(c) Also recalls that in accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/7, the priority theme for its thirty-eighth session in February 2000 will be "Contribution of the Commission to the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit";

(d) Further recalls its decision 6 on arrangements for future sessions, taken at its organizational session, in which, *inter alia*, it decided that the Preparatory Committee would hold its second session from 3 to 14 April 2000;

(e) Decides to adopt the procedure set out below for preparation of the outcome of the special session, and the indicative calendar for the period leading up to the second session, annexed to the present decision, to ensure the best possible preparation of that session;

(f) Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the convening of inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee during the week of 30 August to 3 September 1999, in order to consider further the Chairman's working draft text (A/AC.253/L.5, adapted to reflect the decision on the role of the United Nations system (A/AC.253/L.7) taken by the Preparatory Committee), including proposals made by delegations, with a view to preparing a new, integrated Chairman's working draft text by January 2000;

(g) Invites Governments that have not yet done so to submit national reports, taking note of the note verbale of the Secretary-General requesting submission by 30 June 1999;

(h) Invites the organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and any other organizations which have been requested to provide reports, studies or

documentation to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, to make that work available to the Secretary-General no later than 1 January 2000. Each of the documents submitted should contain a short, precise summary of conclusions on the assessment of issues and proposals for further action;

(i) Requests the Secretary-General to make available to all delegations a compilation of all the summaries and proposals for further action contained in those documents no later than the end of January 2000;

(j) Invites the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-eighth regular session (8–17 February 2000), to undertake the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, and to transmit the results of its deliberations to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

(k) Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the convening of inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee during the week of 22 to 25 February 2000, immediately following the thirty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development, in order to consider further the new, integrated Chairman's working draft text and the compilation of the summaries and proposals taken from the documentation provided by the United Nations system;

(l) Further requests the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, on the basis of the outcome of the Commission for Social Development and the inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations held in February 2000, to provide a further, revised working draft text to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

(m) Decides to coordinate with the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

Annex

Indicative calendar

30 June 1999	Submission to the Secretary-General of national reports on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
30 August–3 September 1999	Inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee to consider further the Chairman's working draft text (A/AC.253/L.5, adapted to reflect the decision on the role of the United Nations system (A/AC.253/L.7) taken by the Preparatory Committee), including proposals made by delegations, with a view to preparing a new, integrated Chairman's working draft text by January 2000
1 January 2000	Submission by the United Nations system and other organizations of requested reports, studies and documentation, with short, precise summaries of conclusions on the assessment of issues and proposals for further action
	Presentation of new, integrated Chairman's working draft text
End of January 2000	Secretary-General to make available to all delegations a compilation of all the summaries and proposals for further action contained in those documents
8–17 February 2000	Thirty-eighth regular session of the Commission for Social Development, which will undertake an overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit
22–25 February 2000	Inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations of the Preparatory Committee to consider further the new, integrated Chairman's working draft text and the compilation of the summaries and proposals taken from the documentation provided by the United Nations system, with a view to the preparation of a further, revised Chairman's working draft text

March 2000	Presentation by the Chairman, on the basis of the outcome of the session of the Commission for Social Development and the inter-sessional, open-ended, informal consultations, of a further, revised working draft text to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its second session
3–14 April 2000	Second session of the Preparatory Committee
26–30 June 2000	Special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives, Geneva

Decision 3

Accreditation and modalities for participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session

The Preparatory Committee decides to defer consideration of the accreditation and modalities of participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session to the inter-sessional open-ended informal consultations to be held from 30 August to 3 September 1999, subject to a decision by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, with a view to adopting a decision in a one-day resumed session of the Preparatory Committee before the end of 1999.

Decision 4

Reports of the Secretary-General under agenda items 3 and 4

The Preparatory Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development[4] and the report of the Secretary-General on further initiatives for the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.[5]

Notes

[1] *See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/53/45), chap. VI, sect. B.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] A/AC.253/7.

[5] A/AC.253/8.

Annex

Working draft submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee

Proposed outcome of the first substantive session

The Chairman's working draft is in three parts:

(a) Part I (Reaffirmation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development) contains a short suggested draft text that could form a basis for the text to be eventually adopted at the special session at Geneva in 2000.

(b) Part II (Review and assessment of implementation) contains a short draft text for consideration and action at the first substantive session (i.e., the current session) of the Preparatory Committee, recognizing that the comprehensive review will be possible only when the national reports have been received and collated.

(c) Part III (Further initiatives for inclusion in the outcome of the special session), contains elements for inclusion and elaboration by the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session in April 2000 and eventual adoption by the General Assembly at the special session and also for consideration and decision at the current session of the Committee. It includes proposals requiring further preparatory work and analysis by the Secretariat and other entities of the United Nations system before the Preparatory Committee's second session.

Part I
Reaffirmation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development

1. Five years have passed since, for the first time in history, at the invitation of the United Nations, heads of State and Government gathered to recognize the significance of social development and human well-being for all and to give these goals the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century.

2. On the present occasion we have come together:

(a) To solemnly reaffirm our commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, held in March 1995;

(b) To review and assess progress with the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at Copenhagen;

(c) To consider further initiatives to ensure that the commitments are realized in tangible, effective ways for the betterment of the human condition.

3. Our assessment of the progress made with implementation is set out below. There has been one major unambiguously positive development since the Summit, the very obvious shift toward recognizing the centrality of social development in our political priorities and in our thinking, in Governments and in organizations that embody the international community.

4. This evolving perception presents us with a new opportunity and we intend fully to seize it. In reaffirming the Declaration and Programme of Action agreed in Copenhagen, we are determined to give new momentum to the Programme of Action and accelerate the implementation of those instruments, including by means of the further initiatives we as Governments have here agreed on and which are set out below. We also invite all people in all countries and in all walks of life, individually and through the various organizations of which they are a part, local and national, as well as international, to join us in our common cause.

Part II
Review and assessment of implementation

1. The preliminary assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit indicates the initiation of many new policies and programmes and shifts in emphasis or direction. The Summit has clearly also had an impact on the United Nations system, refocusing its activities and galvanizing action. It is equally clear that the national and international policy responses have been uneven, with little progress apparent in some key areas. Achieving the goals established at the Summit will be a lengthy and complicated process.

2. Given the nature and the broad scope of many of the goals and targets set at Copenhagen and the inevitable lag between initiation of policies and visible results, a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of policies and programmes put in place since Copenhagen will take time. Information for a fuller global assessment will become available as national Governments report the results of their own national assessments in the course of the year and international organizations report on their latest activities.

3. At Copenhagen, quantitative targets were adopted or reaffirmed in the area of basic social services (16) and official development assistance (2). Twelve targets included a time-frame: in six cases, the target date was set as the year 2000. The compilation of robust data to evaluate progress in the areas covered by the targets presents many problems. Since the Summit a concerted effort has been made to improve the quality, timeliness and country coverage of data. A solid statistical baseline has been established by the above-mentioned quantitative targets that will facilitate future assessment of progress and evaluation of related programmes.

4. The review and assessment of implementation to be undertaken at the special session could be structured around the following three topics:

(a) Initiatives already taken by Governments and international organizations;

(b) Experience gained so far;

(c) Internal and external constraints to implementation.

5. The review and assessment will necessarily be made against a background of continuing global change and unfolding long-term developments as well as temporary shocks and unforeseen setbacks. A number of developments, especially those typically associated with globalization, have combined to turn local setbacks into potential threats to the system. The emerging international economic and financial system was put to a severe test in recent years and many weak points were revealed. Yet the lessons learned from these setbacks, and many of the long-term developments associated with globalization, are capable of also bringing benefits and, if applied through changes to policy and attitudes, will facilitate the achievement of the Copenhagen aspirations.

Part III
Further initiatives for inclusion in the outcome of the special session

Commitment 1
An enabling environment for social development

1. The World Summit for Social Development redefined the concept of development, insisting that people must be at the centre of sustainable development. Therefore, people must have the right and the ability to participate fully in the economic, political and social life of their societies. This requires fuller democratization and transparent governance not only of national but also of international economic and political institutions and structures. Full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and peace and security are also crucial for social development.

2. Since the Summit, the extent and pace of global integration has accelerated as the result of liberalization and revolutions in technology and communications. Globalization and in particular financial liberalization, the extent of resources control by the private sector and corporate strategies for investment have at the same time far outstripped the capacity of Governments and of the international community to monitor and manage these processes for the benefit of all segments of society. Also, growth has often not been balanced or sustainable and, even during times of economic progress, the distribution of income and wealth has commonly become more inequitable. Current patterns of market-driven globalization may even give rise to marginalization within and among countries. As a result, there is an acute need to increase the effectiveness of international institutions as well as Governments in adapting to the new social challenges raised by globalization.

3. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the further initiatives set out below.

4. The Preparatory Committee recommends requesting the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the conclusions of current research to assess the impact of globalization on social policy and to make recommendations for further action.

5. The Preparatory Committee recommends requesting the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the funds and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare proposals

on sound principles and good practices for social policy for the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

6. The Preparatory Committee recommends requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the development of guidelines on the social responsibilities of the private sector. The International Labour Organization, in consultation with its tripartite constituents, is invited to contribute to the preparation of that report.

7. The Preparatory Committee recommends strengthening the capacities of developing countries to effectively participate in the increasingly globalized economy through:

(a) Facilitating the transfer of appropriate technology, knowledge and information to developing countries;

(b) Encouraging a greater opening of international markets to the products of developing countries, refraining from any unilateral measure inconsistent with international law or the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Inviting the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to carry out a joint assessment of the sectors and products where action could be taken by developed countries to further open their markets to the exports of developing countries;

(d) Supporting the accessibility of developing countries to the World Trade Organization;

(e) Providing technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to develop their capacities to more fully and equally participate in international negotiations, including trade negotiations and the WTO dispute settlement mechanism; establishing a global participation fund, possibly under the auspices of UNCTAD, for this purpose;

(f) Inviting UNCTAD and the World Bank to jointly study the feasibility of establishing an infrastructure fund to assist with the development of infrastructure for social development in developing countries.

8. The Preparatory Committee recommends applying agreed principles of good governance, transparency and accountability to international financial institutions to ensure equity in their management and operations and a central position for social development in their policies and programmes.

9. The Preparatory Committee recommends enhancing good governance, democracy and transparency in decision-making, accountability to the people, empowerment of women, partnership with social organizations and local participation to ensure equity and social development.

10. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the International Law Commission to consider the development of an international legal instrument for combating corruption, and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this proposal.

11. The Preparatory Committee recommends inclusion in the agenda of the high-level international intergovernmental forum on financing for development of such issues as strengthening the framework for monitoring and operation of international financial markets; constraining the volatility of short-term financial flows; supporting the further development of national banking and financial systems; and mobilizing financial resources for social development.

12. The Preparatory Committee recommends requesting the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to review progress achieved since the Summit in the ratification and implementation of existing international conventions and covenants to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Commitment 2
Poverty eradication

13. Recognizing that efforts to eradicate poverty are necessarily long-term, it is nevertheless disquieting to admit that progress to reach this goal has been erratic and slow, and that well over a billion people still live in abject poverty. Poverty eradication must remain central to all development strategies and in policy-making at all levels. The approach should be holistic, multi-pronged and broad-based. Targeted policies must be complemented by strategies of economic growth in favour of people living in poverty, as well as support to grass-roots organizations that encourage participation and empowerment, and enhanced international support of national efforts.

14. One reason for the continuation of poverty is the continuation and growth of inequitable distribution of income and wealth; inequality is reinforcing and self-perpetuating. A necessary condition for the creation of more just and harmonious societies is strengthening of policies in support of more equitable distribution of income and wealth. Provision of essential social services, in particular basic education and primary health care, is fundamental. Improved social security systems, social protection and local informal networks are all key elements of an integrated approach to eradicating poverty.

15. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the initiatives set out below.

16. The Preparatory Committee recommends that the General Assembly at its special session adopt a global poverty reduction target to reduce by one half the number of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015. The Committee invites the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, when preparing their upcoming major reports on poverty reduction (the World Development Report 2000 and the second report on overcoming human poverty, respectively), to recommend additional strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

17. The Preparatory Committee recommends encouraging countries that have not yet done so to incorporate national poverty reduction targets into their national strategies for socio-economic development and to revise their national strategies by including such aspects as:

(a) Ensuring that macroeconomic policies reflect and fully integrate employment growth and poverty reduction goals;

(b) Strengthening linkages between macro- and microlevel anti-poverty programmes;

(c) Using employment policies to reduce poverty, including self-employment;

(d) Encouraging rural development;

(e) Supporting means for improving the productivity of the informal sector;

(f) Developing and promoting institutional capacities (e.g., by management training);

(g) Ensuring a gender equity perspective throughout;

(h) Targeting groups with special needs;

(i) Restructuring public expenditure policies to maximize their impact on poverty;

(j) Improving access for people living in poverty to productive resources;

(k) Encouraging the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(l) Establishing credit and micro-finance schemes adapted to the needs and potentials of marginalized people and vulnerable groups;

(m) Improving social protection systems;

(n) Ensuring community participation in poverty reduction strategies.

18. The Preparatory Committee recommends requesting the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to evaluate the achievement of international targets aiming to meet the basic human needs of all and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

19. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the International Labour Office, in cooperation with the relevant offices of the United Nations system and the International Social Security Association, to prepare a report for the second session of the Preparatory Committee containing recommendations for further action in the field of social protection to be taken at the special session; interested Governments are invited to provide support.

20. The Preparatory Committee recommends that Governments evaluate the effectiveness of national tax systems as mechanisms for redistribution and support for people living in poverty, and adopt the appropriate measures.

21. The Preparatory Committee recommends encouraging international support to countries with economies in transition in order to assist them:

(a) To combine universal coverage of social services with targeted assistance to the most vulnerable groups to ease the pains of transition;

(b) To implement policies to involve those individuals marginalized by the transition and overcome exclusion and further deprivation;

(c) To prevent a decline in public resources for social programmes.

Commitment 3
Full employment

22. Income-earning opportunities for all who want them are essential to the realization of the three central Summit goals, namely, poverty eradication, employment growth and social integration. Since Copenhagen, most Governments have made employment growth a pillar of their strategy for economic and social development, and have implemented policies aimed at enhancing productive employment and reducing unemployment. The rapid globalization of the world economy, the financial crisis, continuously advancing technologies and the growth of informal and unprotected forms of employment are posing new challenges which make the goal of achieving and maintaining full employment more complex. Globalization has had manifestations not only on trade and capital flows but also on labour markets, with implications for both internal and international migration.

23. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the further initiatives set out below.

24. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the International Labour Office to prepare a programme of national and regional action plans for achieving full employment in an integrating world economy and to submit it to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; the report could propose a strategy and plan of implementation, which could include analytical and research components, policy implications and recommendations for action and country-level operational activities.

25. The Preparatory Committee recommends refocusing national macroeconomic policies so that employment growth and poverty reduction become central and are sought simultaneously with low inflation.

26. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the United Nations, in cooperation with the International Labour Office, to prepare proposals to strengthen procedures and institutions for social dialogue; this should include specific proposals for strengthening representative employer and worker organizations.

27. The Preparatory Committee recommends encouraging Governments to comply with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Within this framework, national action is called for through the adoption of a proposed new ILO convention on the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour; further action is required to promote and apply the principles embodied in other ILO conventions, including those on employment policy and providing protection to migrant workers.

28. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the World Bank and the International Labour Office to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second session a brief report indicating the scope for increasing the employment potential of infrastructure development and the employment impact of World Bank infrastructure loans as well as a strategy for expanding international cooperation in this field.

29. The Preparatory Committee recommends strengthening legislation on minimum wages and its implementation, and promoting efficient labour-intensive methods of production.

Commitment 4
Promoting social integration

30. Since the Summit, social inequalities have risen in virtually all countries, and inequities between countries have also become more severe. Deprivation is threatening social stability and peace in many countries. Among other ills are the disintegration of the family, drug abuse, trafficking in human beings, the exploitation of children and women, violence against women, other forms of crime, ethnic strife, civil wars, foreign occupation and acts of terrorism. National efforts to advance social integration have often been undermined by the lack of funding. Social cohesion and solidarity is a fundamental condition of development and social progress, and efforts to develop and reinforce institutions and mechanisms encouraging social integration have to be sustained. In every country, there is extensive untapped potential that could be utilized.

31. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the further initiatives set out below.

32. The Preparatory Committee recommends strengthening mechanisms for participation, cooperation and dialogue among all levels of government and other social actors as a contribution to integration; the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is invited to undertake a review of existing national institutional arrangements for social integration and report on the lessons learned to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; interested Governments are urged to support this project.

33. The Preparatory Committee recommends strengthening support for civil society, including community organizations working with groups with specific needs and accelerating implementation of United Nations instruments relating to those groups.

34. The Preparatory Committee recommends strengthening the international legal protection of the family. The Commission on Human Rights is invited to consider the development of an international legal instrument for this purpose.

35. The Preparatory Committee recommends promoting the contribution that volunteering can make to the creation of caring societies as an additional mechanism in the promotion of social integration; the Commission for Social Development is invited to consider the issue in 2001, the International Year of Volunteers.

36. The Preparatory Committee recommends further strengthening the capacity of organizations working for conflict resolution and conflict prevention and requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on suggested means to achieve this.

Commitment 5
Equality and equity between women and men

37. The elimination of discrimination against women and their empowerment and full participation in all areas of life and at all levels should be priority objectives at the national as well as the international levels, and an intrinsic part of social development. Equitable social development requires the mainstreaming of gender considerations in all levels of policy-making and in the planning of programmes and projects. Despite some progress, gender mainstreaming is not yet universal, and gender-based inequality continues in many areas of most societies.

38. Specific issues related to gender and the status of women will be taken up at the special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held early in June 2000, on the theme "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

39. The Preparatory Committee reiterates the commitment to ensure that gender is mainstreamed within all proposals for further initiatives related to each of the commitments made at the Summit by, *inter alia*, evaluating the gender implications of proposals and taking action to correct situations in which women are disadvantaged. The use of affirmative action programmes is commended to both Governments and international organizations.

40. The Preparatory Committee encourages Governments to strive to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in time to enable it to enter into force before the special session.

Commitment 6
Universal and equitable access to quality education and health services

41. Since the Summit, many Governments have undertaken policies to implement the goals of attaining universal and equitable access to quality basic social services. However, in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the improvement of education and health has been hampered by such factors as resource constraints and the effects of economic reform and structural adjustment programmes and other constraints. The Summit set such time-bound targets as achieving universal primary education and access to basic health services by the year 2015, as well as specifying targets for improvements in infant, child and maternal mortality and life expectancy, access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Yet without more concerted action, these targets will not be achieved in many countries. Supportive international policies are essential to enhance the provision of social services.

42. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the further initiatives set out below.

43. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank to formulate a global action plan for all by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

44. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the World Health Organization, in consultation with the World Bank and other interested organizations of the United Nations system, to elaborate a global action plan for basic health services by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

45. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the World Health Organization to consider improving partnerships between the public and private sectors in the area of health research.

Commitment 7
Acceleration of development in Africa and in the least developed countries

46. Most African countries have attempted to implement the commitments made at Copenhagen, but internal and external constraints continue to make progress extremely difficult. Full implementation of the commitments requires the mobilization of all development actors, at national and international levels, to accelerate the economic and social development of Africa and the least developed countries through a holistic approach. Initiatives outlined under each of the other commitments, such as those relating to equitable access to education and health services, income-earning opportunities, land, credit, infrastructure, technology, official development assistance and debt, are vital to Africa and the least developed countries and these are not repeated here. However, they must be implemented with particular regard to their importance for countries in this group.

47. In addition, the Preparatory Committee recommends:

(a) That concerted efforts be made by international organizations and powerful countries to establish favourable

conditions for the fuller and equitable integration of African and the least developed countries into the global community;

(b) Inviting the United Nations Secretariat, in conjunction with UNCTAD, to review again the proposal to establish a commodities diversification facility, and to make a recommendation to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, in view of the importance of reducing dependence on one or a few commodities;

(c) Encouraging the 25 African countries most affected by HIV/AIDS to adopt a target of reducing infection levels in young people by 25 per cent by 2005, and inviting the World Health Organization, in conjunction with the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, to prepare and propose means for implementing a strategy for achieving this target.

Commitment 8
Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

48. Governments at the Summit made a commitment to ensuring the inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes. Yet some of the programmes prescribed by the international financial institutions have continued to be a matter of concern. In too many cases, the social cost of the implementation of structural adjustment programmes has still been too high. While recent steps taken by some international financial institutions, including the World Bank, have aimed at better integration of social concerns into the design of structural adjustment programmes, the International Monetary Fund has sometimes given inadequate attention to protecting public spending even for essential social services. As a result, there have been substantial welfare losses for the population at large, and for the low-income and disadvantaged groups in particular.

49. The Preparatory Committee therefore recommends the initiatives set out below.

50. The Preparatory Committee recommends adoption by international financial institutions of the principle of full integration of economic and social policies at the inception of any reform package, including the design of structural adjustment programmes to promote the goals of macroeconomic stabilization.

51. The Preparatory Committee recommends affirming that national Governments must control the setting of policy directions and priorities of anti-crisis policy measures and programmes, with the participation of representatives from civil society, the local business community and other national stakeholders; programmes should not be adopted without social impact assessment, to ensure provision of adequate social protection for the poor and vulnerable groups and to mitigate any potential adverse effects of its implementation; and requesting the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this matter.

52. The Preparatory Committee recommends exploring means to strengthen coordination between the United Nations and the international financial institutions regarding the economic and social aspects of structural adjustment programmes, particularly at the country level.

Commitment 9
Resources for social development

53. Full implementation of the outcome of the Summit will require mobilizing additional resources for social development at both the national and international levels. There is a new understanding of the multidimensional nature of resources that must be mobilized: it is recognized that in addition to the financial component, the resource base also includes various human capacities and skills, including organizational capacities. All of these kinds of resources should be tapped. It remains, nevertheless, essential for all the social actors, at all levels, to strive to increase the financial resources available to social development activities.

54. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the further initiatives set out below.

55. The Preparatory Committee recommends encouraging Governments to undertake efforts to increase domestic resources for social development by, *inter alia*:

(a) Reallocating public resources to the social sectors, including, wherever possible, reducing military expenditure;

(b) Improving the efficiency in the use of available funds by raising quality standards; achieving a better balance between capital and recurrent expenditures; encouraging local, participatory control over programme decisions and expenditures; and ensuring better coordination among the many service providers;

(c) Strengthening mechanisms and policies to attract and manage private investment, thus freeing public resources for social investments;

(d) Facilitating the involvement and active partnership of the private sector and civil society in the provision of social services.

56. The Preparatory Committee recommends supporting Governments in the establishment of guidelines for policies aimed at generating domestic revenue to pay for social services, social protection and other social programmes, including:

(a) Equitable and progressive broadening of the tax base;

(b) Improving the efficiency of tax administration, including by collecting taxes at the source and at frequent intervals;

(c) Seeking new sources of revenue which simultaneously may discourage "public bads", such as greenhouse gas emissions;

(d) Various forms of public borrowing, including issuance of bonds and other financial instruments to finance capital works.

57. In support of national efforts to attract additional resources for social development, international action is urgently required in several important areas:

(a) Accelerating current initiatives and taking additional action to substantially reduce the debts of developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted low-income countries, by speeding up the process, relaxing the eligibility criteria, and broadening and deepening the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries debt initiative;

(b) Reiterating the call to developed countries to achieve the long-standing commitment to the United Nations targets for official development assistance (ODA) of 0.7 per cent of GNP for overall ODA and 0.15 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries; in this connection, donor countries are urged to demonstrate their commitment to this goal by increasing, immediately and in each of the next five years, the proportion of GNP that they contribute to ODA;

(c) Supporting the principle of mutual commitment between interested donor and recipient countries in the 20/20 initiative by combining their efforts aimed at resource mobilization, *inter alia*, encouraging donors to devote 20 per cent of their ODA and recipient countries to devote 20 per cent of their national budgets to supporting programmes for basic social services.

58. The Preparatory Committee recommends requesting the United Nations Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to undertake further study and to report to the Economic and Social Council on ways and means to address the issues relating to the international dimensions of national tax policy and international tax competition.

Commitment 10
International cooperation for social development

59. Although much of the responsibility and most of the activities to implement the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development rest at the national level, increasing global integration means that the need to strengthen international cooperation is even stronger than it was at the time of Copenhagen. Also, international support is instrumental to the success of the efforts of developing countries to achieve social development. In any case, social concerns rarely stop at national boundaries: international cooperation is essential in resolving problems and promoting social development.

60. Therefore, the Preparatory Committee recommends the further initiatives set out below.

61. The Preparatory Committee recommends supporting the efforts of the United Nations to develop a coherent set of basic social development indicators by the time of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, and for the further development of methodologies for social impact assessments, and encouraging the establishment or strengthening of national monitoring and evaluation units.

62. The Preparatory Committee recommends strengthening cooperation at the regional level, which might include:

(a) Promoting dialogue among regional and subregional groups and organizations;

(b) Encouraging implementation of regional social development agendas where they exist;

(c) Increasing financial support for regional initiatives from donor countries and regional or subregional organizations.

63. The Preparatory Committee recommends inviting the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a report containing operational proposals on enhancing social development for all through the provision of global public goods to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

64. The Preparatory Committee recommends further strengthening the Economic and Social Council as the body primarily responsible for coordinating international action

in follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits; including:

(a) Fostering a closer working relationship with the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies;

(b) Expanding the agenda of the high-level meetings between the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions to consider the further implementation by those institutions of the agreements adopted by the United Nations conferences and summits;

(c) Encouraging greater participation by the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD in the meetings of the Council, and by the United Nations in meetings of the Interim and Development Committees, to ensure that United Nations resolutions on economic and social affairs are given due consideration by those institutions.

65. Promoting South-South cooperation, particularly in terms of economic and technical cooperation, supporting a triangular mechanism whereby donor countries would provide financial support for South-South cooperation, and considering the establishment of a generalized trust fund for triangular economic technical cooperation among developing countries.

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